



Amanda Kesler

Master of Landscape Architecture | Portfolio

2025

Amanda Kesler

540-877-4930
amanda.kesler30@gmail.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amanda-kesler-719091148/>



EXPERIENCE

Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C., Syracuse, NY

Assistant to Landscape Architect I, 2022-2024

Primary Tasks and Relevant Skills:

Grant Writing - Assisted communities to obtain over **\$2.5 million** in grant funding under the New York State Consolidated Funding Application

Rendering Preparation - LUMION, AutoCAD, SketchUp, Rhino 3D, Adobe Creative Suite

Map Creation and Site Analysis - ArcGIS Pro

Comprehensive Plan Drafting - Excellent policy drafting skills and collaboration with Community Planners

Web Design and Creation - CMS, HTML, Adobe Creative Suite

Budget Take-offs - Civil 3D and Microsoft Excel

Client Proposal Preparation and Interviews - Excellent public speaking skills, Microsoft Powerpoint

Washington University in St. Louis Women’s Soccer

Assistant Coach, Data Analyst and Goalkeepers Coach, 2023-Present

Notable Achievements:

Team Achieved the NCAA Division III **National Championship, 2024**

Team Achieved NCAA Division III National Finalists, 2023

NCAA Division III **National Coaching Staff of the Year, 2024**

NCAA Division III All-American, Goalkeeper Awarded All-America Status, 2023, 2024

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis

Master of Landscape Architecture Candidate

Sam Fox Ambassador Graduate Fellow

Awarded for Exceptional Potential in Discipline

Expected May 2026

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and Environmental Studies

Magna Cum Laude

NCAA DIII Women’s Soccer Athlete, 2018-2022

Study Abroad, Copenhagen, Denmark

DIS Copenhagen, Architectural Design Undergraduate

Student

CONTENTS

00

ART

01

PRAIRIE LINK

02

DESEAL

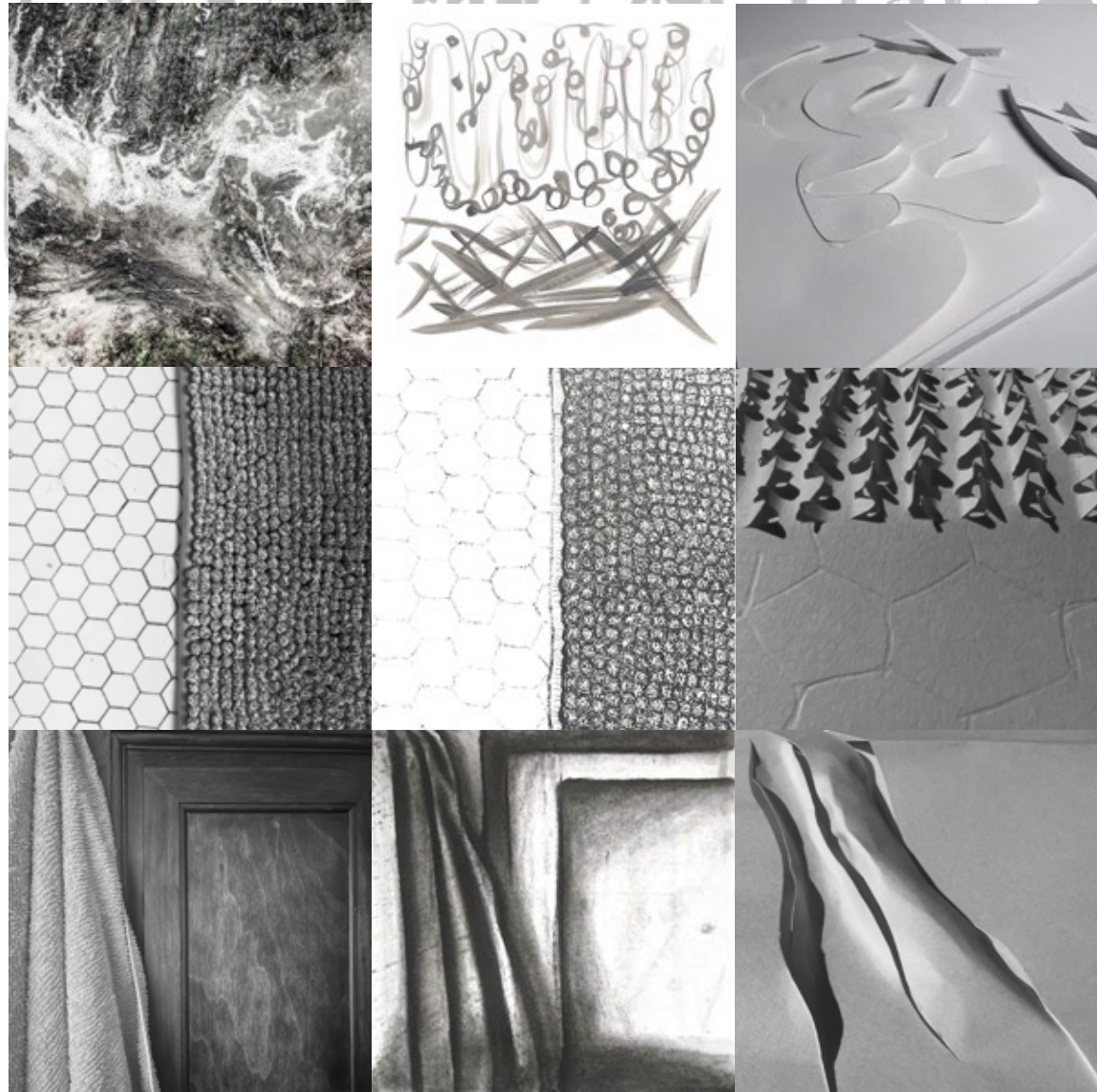
03

TECHNICAL SKILLS

04

PROFESSIONAL WORK

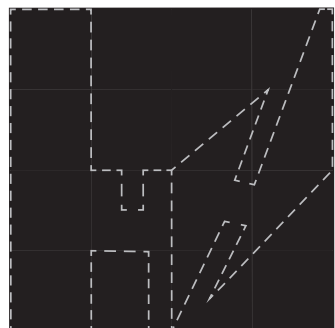
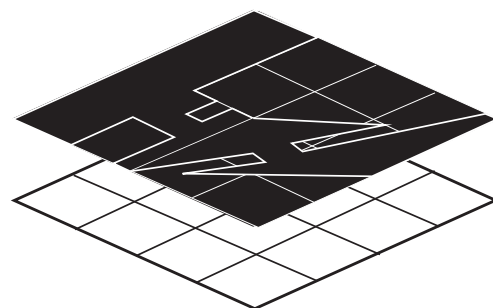
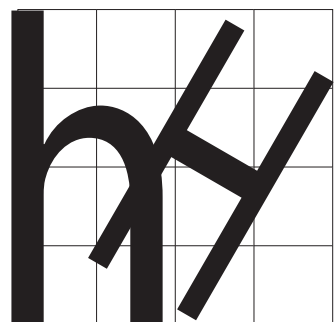
PROCESS



EVERYDAY OBJECTS



HEAP



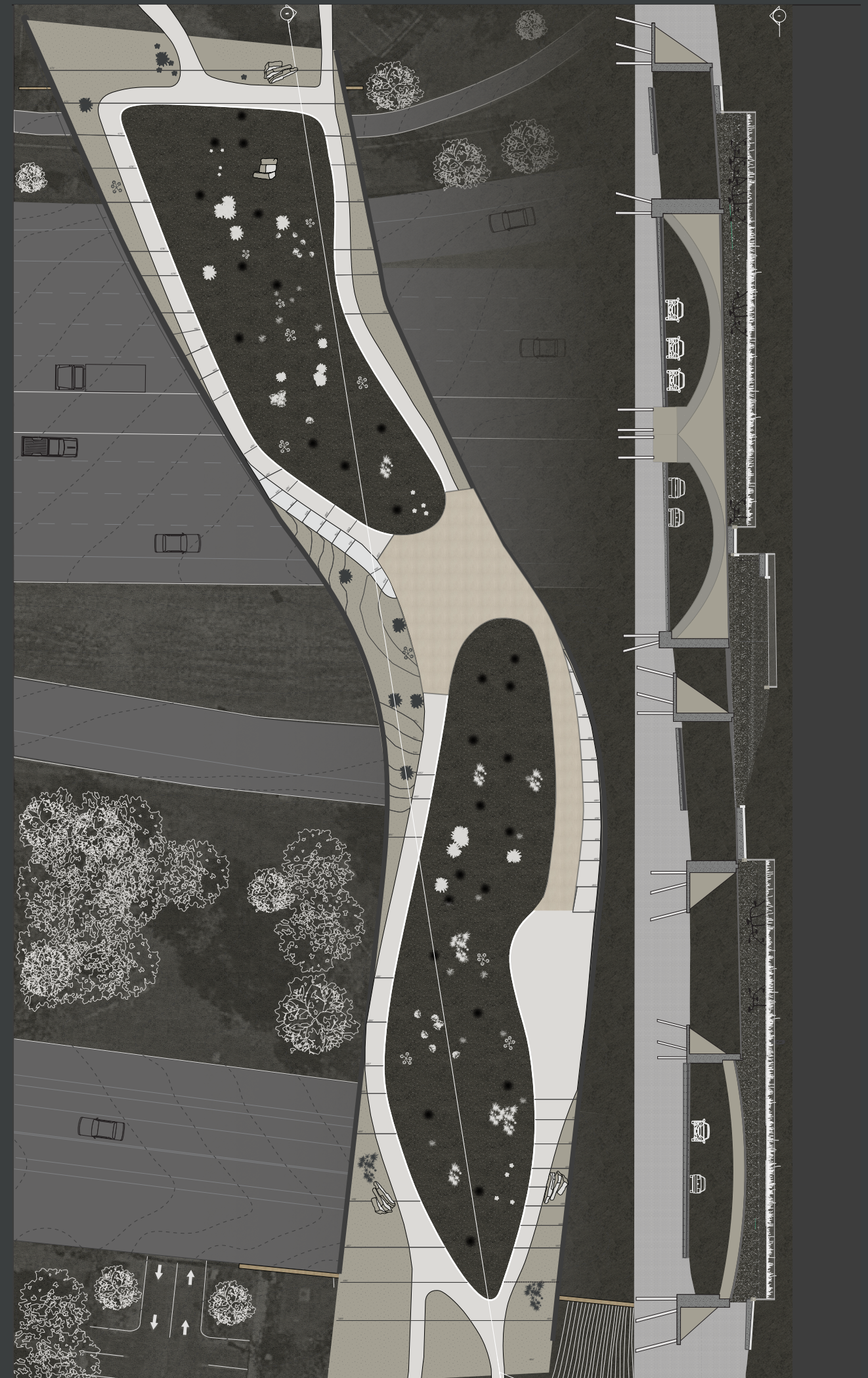
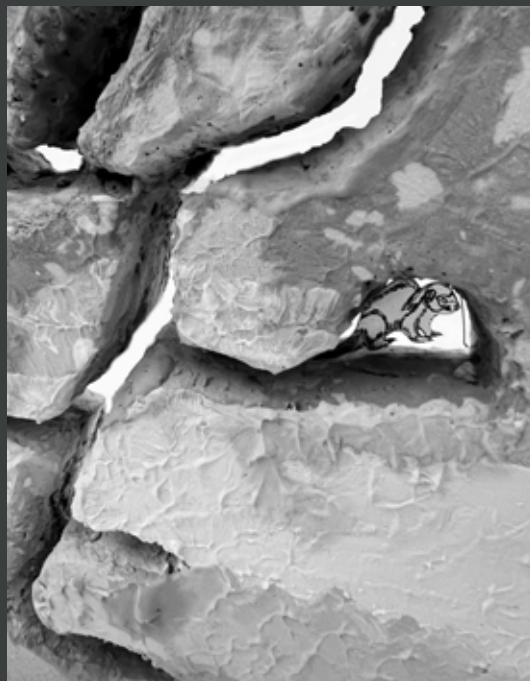
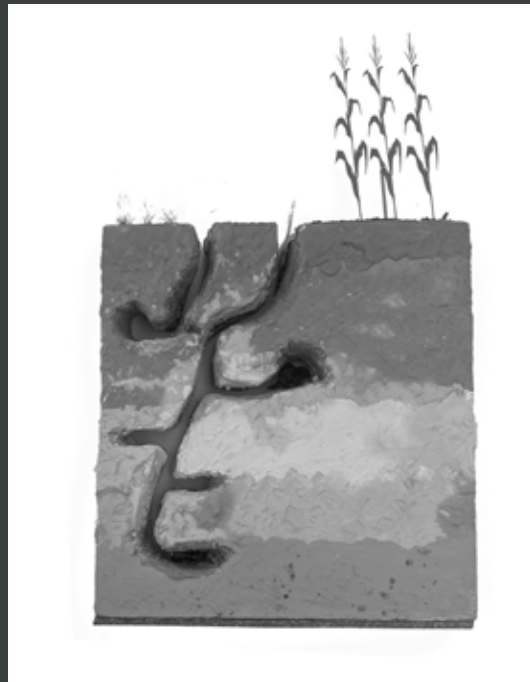
FLETCHER BENTON INSPIRED "LETTER H" MODEL

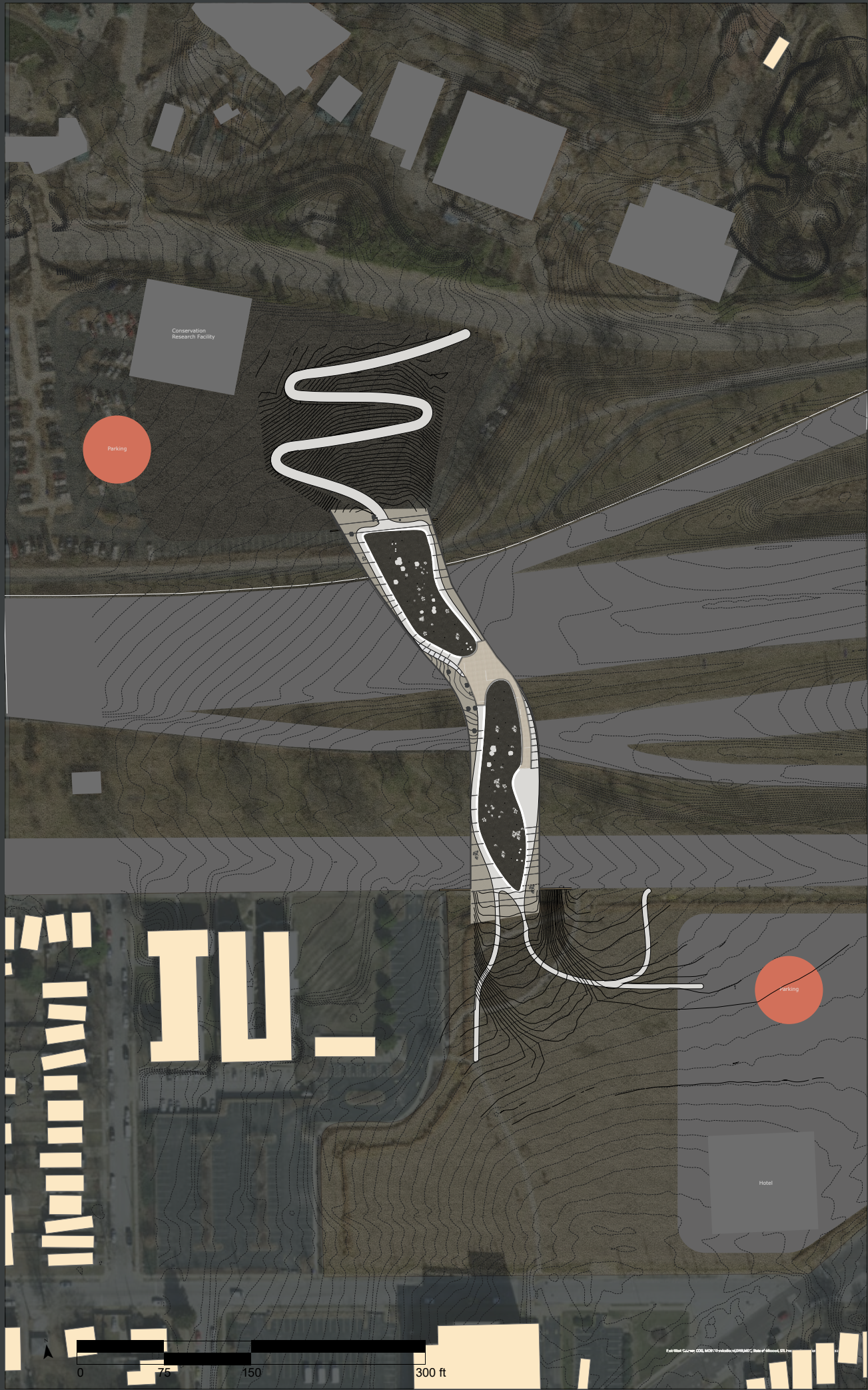
PRAIRIE LINK

Inspired by the dynamic relationship between the prairie dog and its natural rival, the black-footed ferret, the design reflects their ecological interactions and movement patterns. Through extensive research, I explored the possibilities and limitations of integrating animal habitats, pedestrian pathways, and vehicular access within the bridge structure.

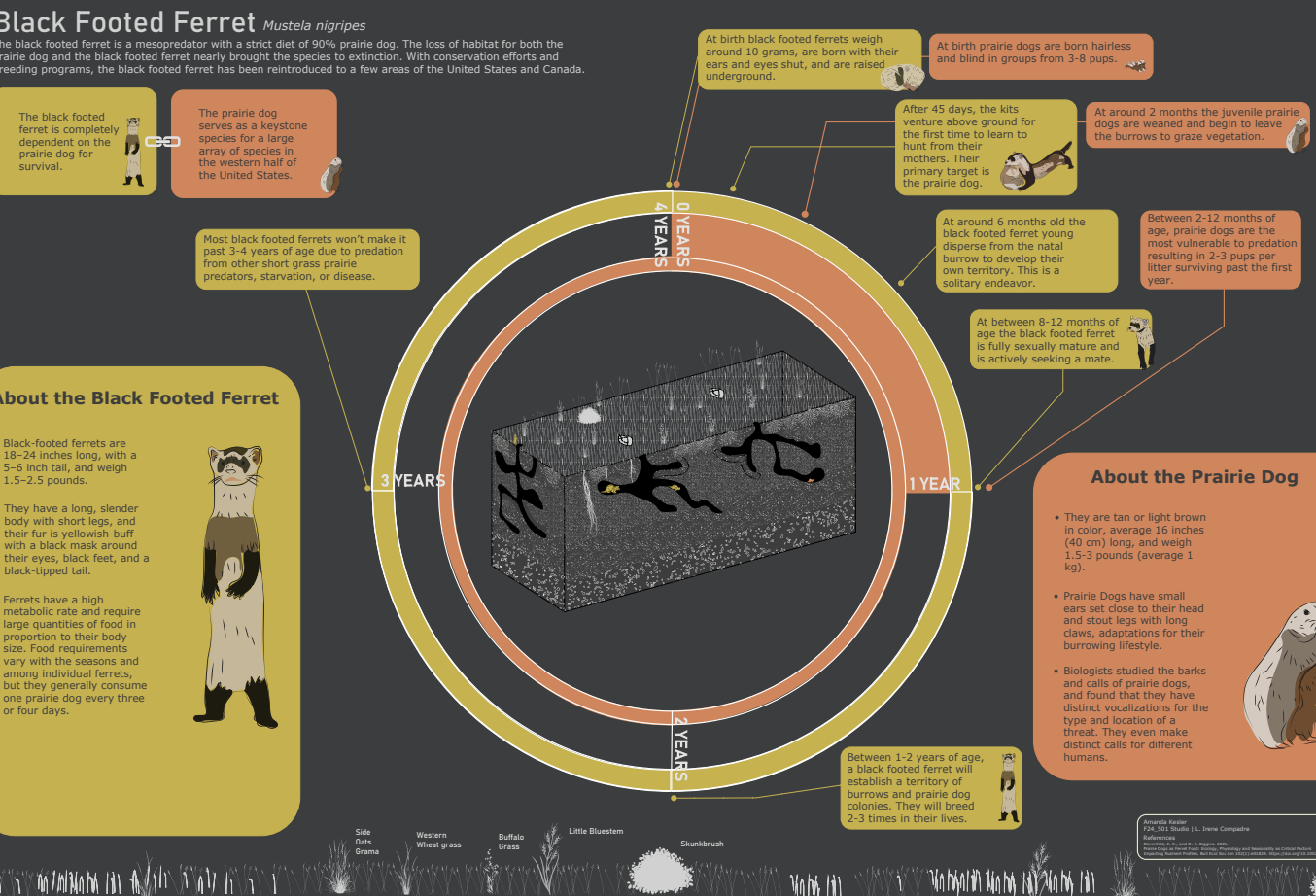
Rather than traditional tunnels, the design features elevated, sheltered viewing platforms where visitors can observe the animals in naturalistic above-ground habitats. The habitats converge at a nexus on the bridge, yet are separated. These platforms create an engaging and educational experience, offering insight into the behaviors of both species while maintaining a safe and enriching environment for them.

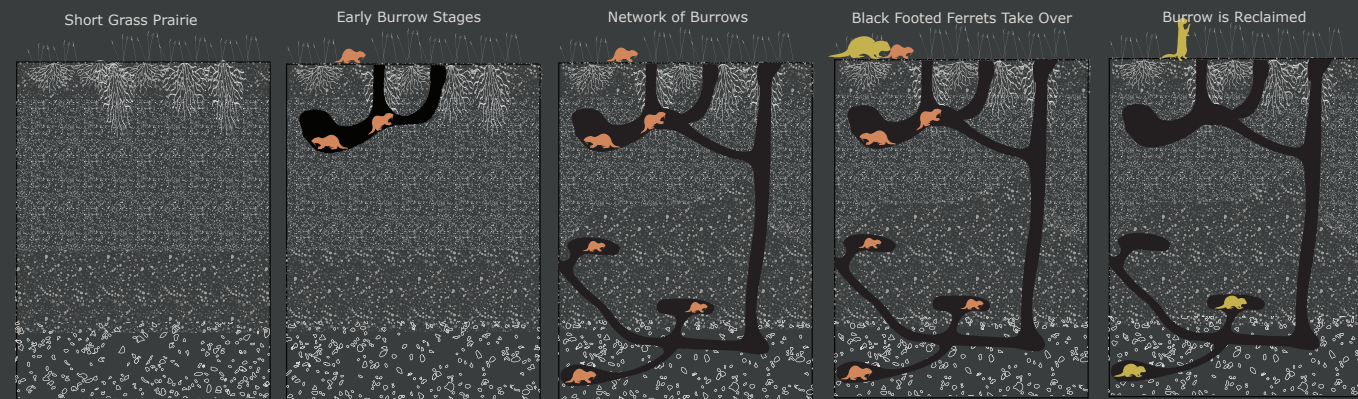
This project reimagines the zoo experience by merging infrastructure with wildlife education, creating a crossing that is not just a bridge but an interactive gateway into the fascinating world of prairie ecosystems.





The Case for the Prairie Dog and Black Footed Ferret





Burrows as Oases

Prairie dog towns can be viewed as biological oases, supporting a variety of wildlife. While some species prey on prairie dogs, others rely on their burrow systems for survival. Empty burrows provide shelter for cottontail rabbits, various small rodents, and burrowing owls. Additionally, birds like meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows are more abundant in prairie dog towns compared to surrounding rangelands, drawn to the open spaces where seeds and insects are more readily available.

Prairie dogs and large grazing animals, such as bison, have a mutually beneficial relationship. In areas with taller vegetation, domestic livestock help keep the vegetation short, enabling prairie dogs to inhabit regions they might otherwise avoid. Furthermore, prairie dogs' continuous trimming of vegetation promotes the growth of more nutrient-rich plants. As a result, grazers like bison, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn gain from the prairie dogs' habit of clipping grass around their towns.

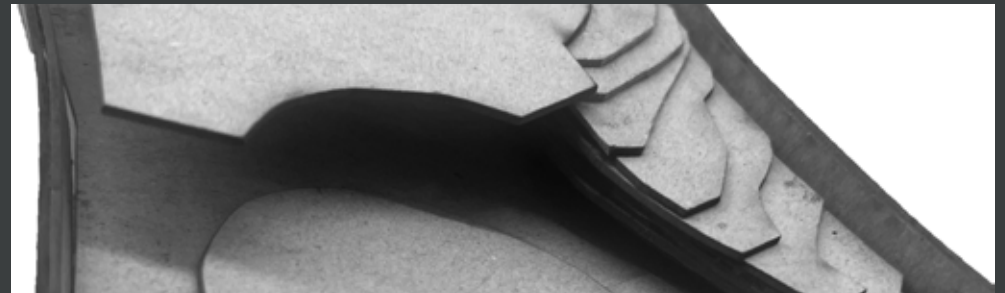


Sediment mixing through burrow creation cycles deep minerals and organic matter allowing for forbs to grow.

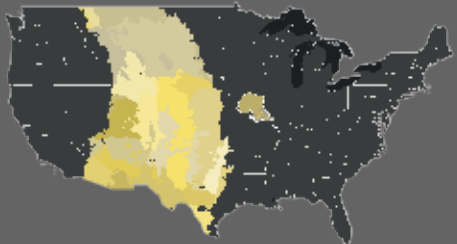
Prairie dogs create burrows as well as Black Footed Ferrets. Black Footed Ferrets can move up to 20 kilos of soil in 2 hours.

As burrows form, nesting pockets are created allowing for air and water to infiltrate the strata.

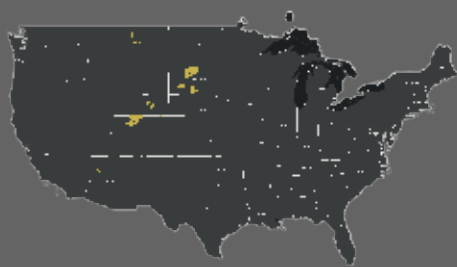
As burrows form, nesting pockets are created allowing for air and water to infiltrate the strata.



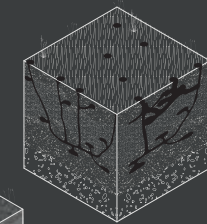
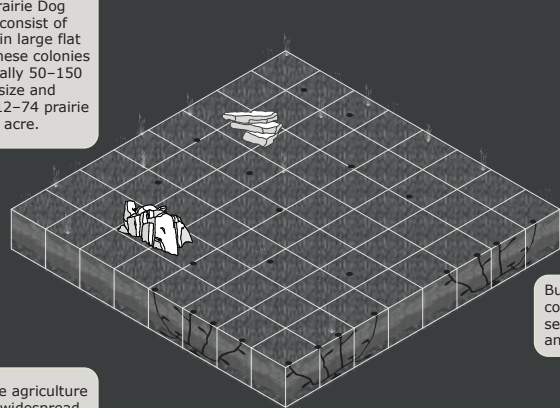
Habitat Loss Impacts



The native habitat range pre-settlement of Prairie Dogs and Black Footed Ferrets spanned from Canada to Mexico across the short grass prairie. After westward expansion and intensive agricultural practices, the habitat range has depleted to a few thousand acres. Reintroduction programs at institutions in Colorado, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming has resulted in a successful establishment of new populations.

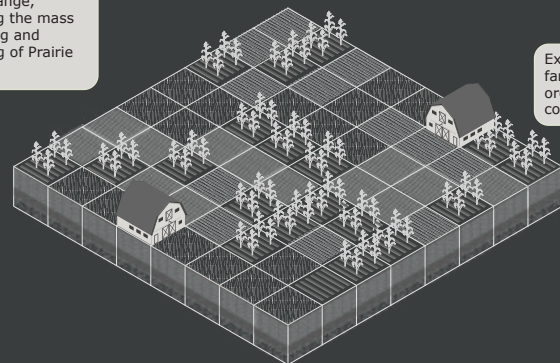


Native Prairie Dog habitats consist of colonies in large flat areas. These colonies are typically 50–150 acres in size and contain 12–74 prairie dogs per acre.

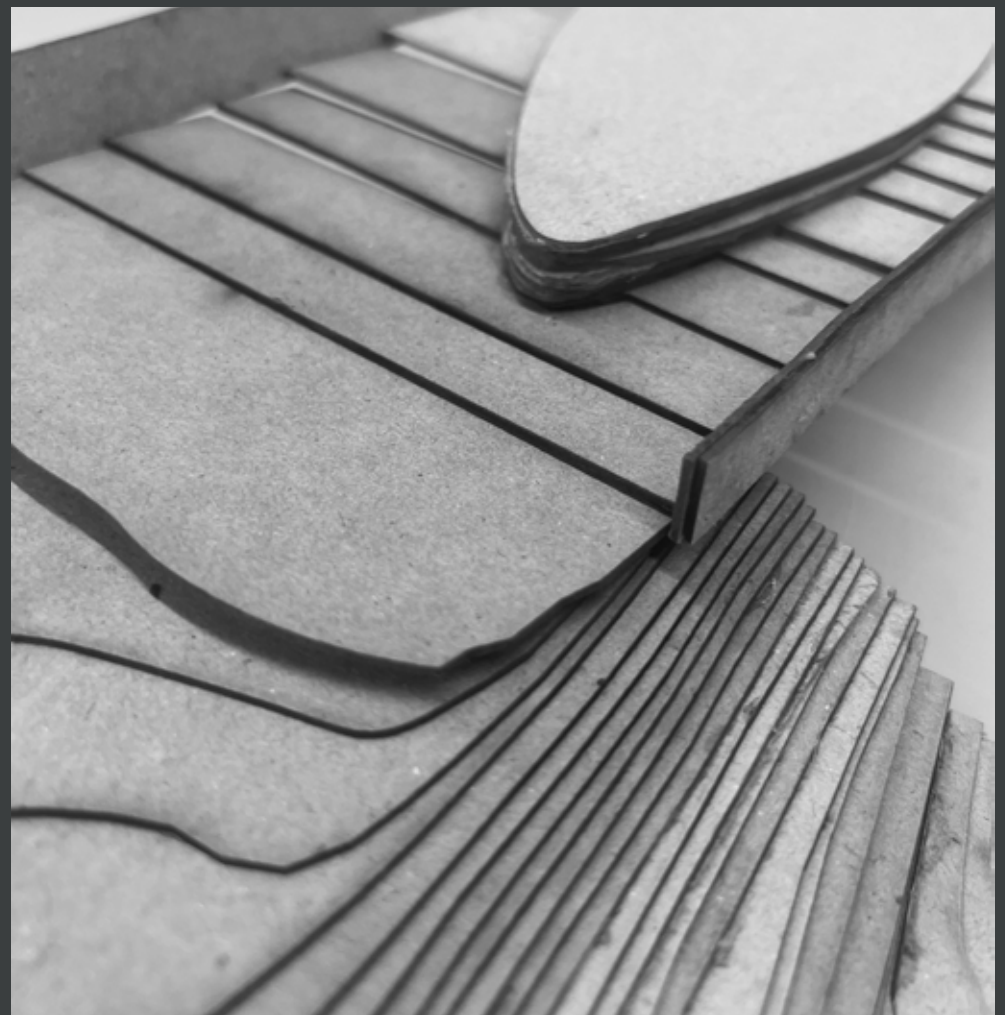
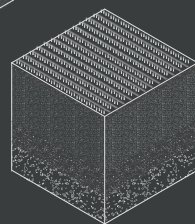


Burrows produce new conditions by mixing sediment, adding moisture, and breaking up roots.

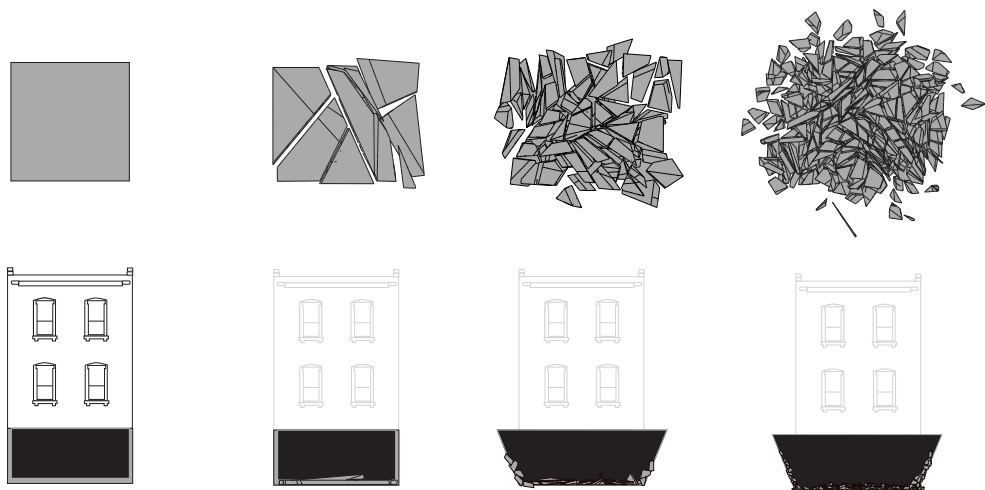
Intensive agriculture led to a widespread destruction of the native range, including the mass poisoning and poaching of Prairie dogs.



Extreme monoculture style farming results in a loss of organic matter and a compaction of soils.



DESEAL



DESEALING ST. LOUIS, SPRING 2024

This design studio project aims to address urban flooding issues and heat hazards in St. Louis related to storm water, vacancy, and impervious surfaces.

IDENTIFY

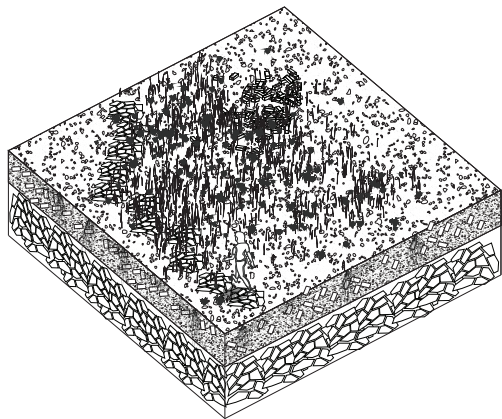
- Research and Map Urban Stormwater Flows
- Map Impervious Surfaces
- Locate and Converse with Stakeholders about Vacancy
- Understand Current Conditions and the Management of Stormwater

INVESTIGATE

- Model Urban Heat Island and Emissivity of St. Louis Urban Vacant Structures
- Similarities Between Existing Conditions and Alternative Ecosystems

PROPOSE INTERVENTION

- Alternative Solutions to Stormwater Management Using Vacant Sites
- Beneficial and Adapted Uses for Demolition Materials
- Alignment of Intervention to Functional Missouri Ecosusterns



IDENTIFY



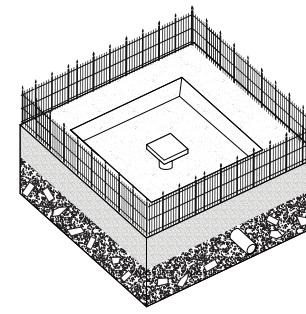
THE URBAN WATERSHED OF ST. LOUIS

A stream order map representing the hidden flows across urban surfaces.



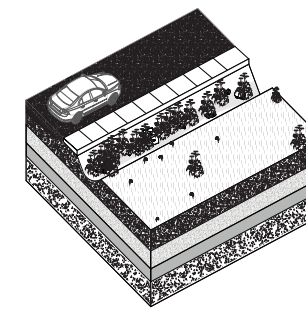
MAJOR URBAN STREAMS AND VACANCY

- Vacant Land
- Wells-Goodfellow Neighborhood @ 48% Vacancy



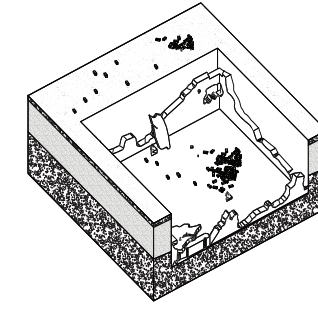
Stormwater Rain Garden

- Fenced off
- Lacks biodiversity
- Retains water and conveys



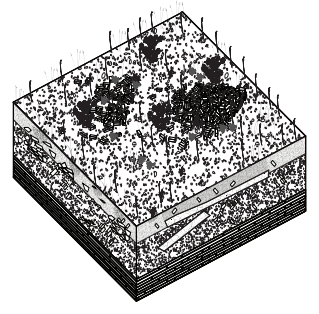
Roadside Ditch

- Contains run off from impervious streets and parking lots
- Growing invasive species



Exposed Basement Foundation

- Collects water, but does not allow for infiltration

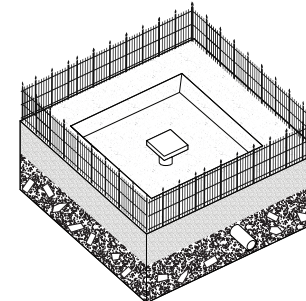


Demolition Debris

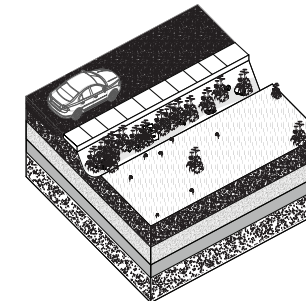
- Contains remnants of building foundations and structure
- Impedes infiltration of water due to compaction

The Urban Conditions in Wells-Goodfellow Neighborhood presents an opportunity to expand the current practices of creating detention basins across former vacant lots and the work by the St. Louis Land Reutilization Authority which has previously been transforming vacant sites into prairies. The Land Reutilization Authority has had to face some community opposition to the prairies as local residents fear the tall grasses and the possibility of snakes or other animals living within.

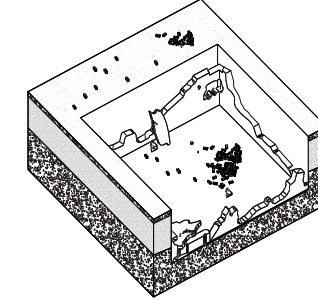
INVESTIGATE



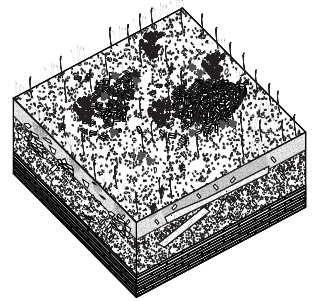
Stormwater Rain Garden



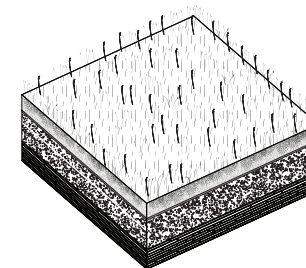
Roadside Ditch



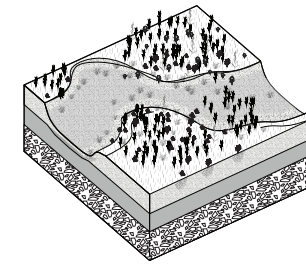
Exposed Basement Foundation



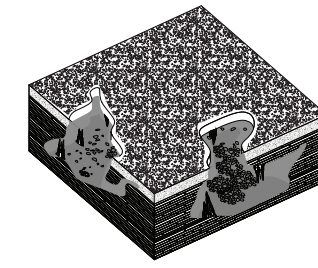
Demolition Debris



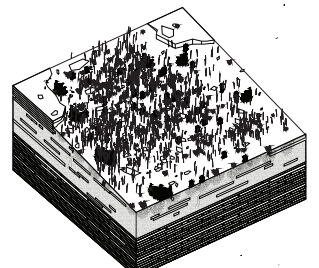
Hardpan Prairie



Prairie Swale



Karst Sinkhole



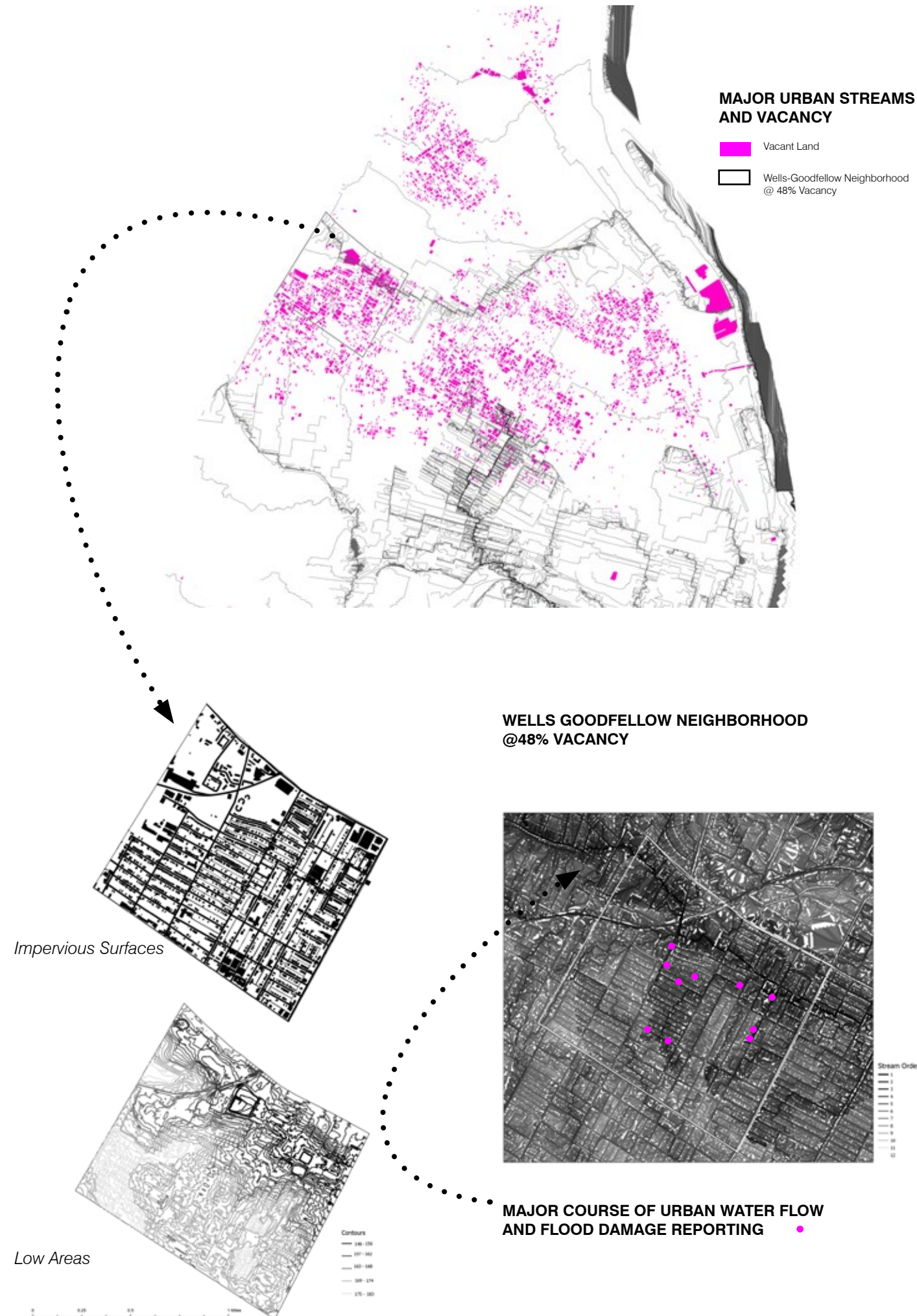
Glade

Drawing parallels between Missouri Terrestrial Ecosystems provides a new way to think about Urban Conditions present. Perhaps reconstructing some of these landscapes into their parallel typology might allow for native species to thrive with less overhaul and retreatment of the landscape itself. Of course, it cannot always be possible to recreate these exact communities.

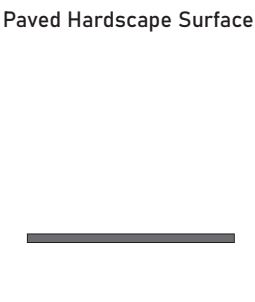
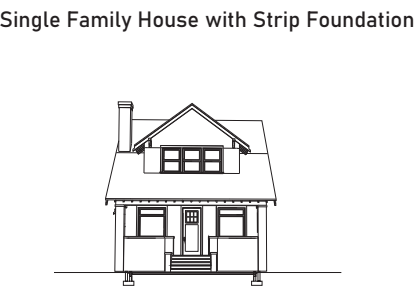
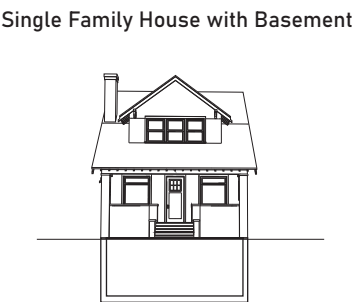
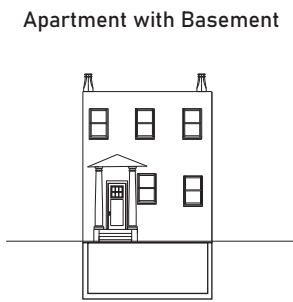
WELLS GOODFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD @48% VACANCY



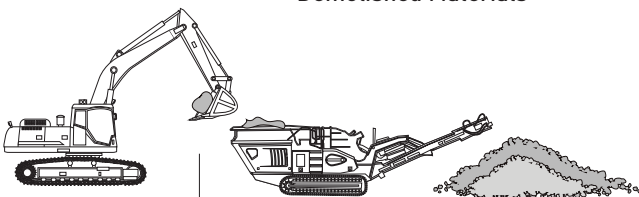
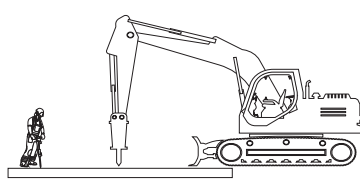
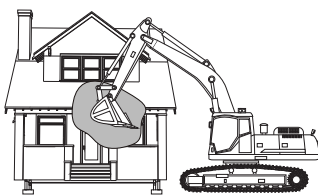
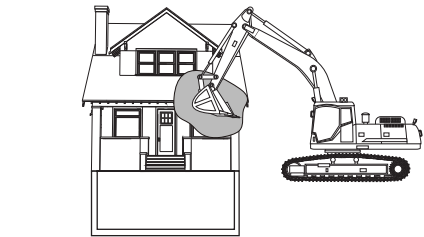
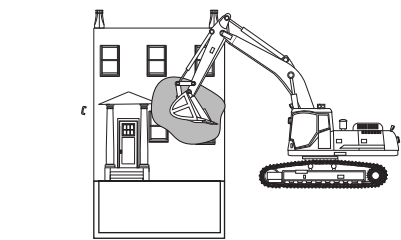
MAJOR COURSE OF URBAN WATER FLOW AND FLOOD DAMAGE REPORTING



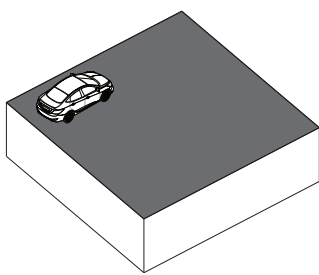
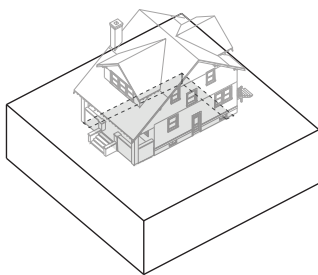
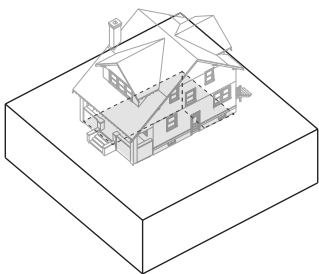
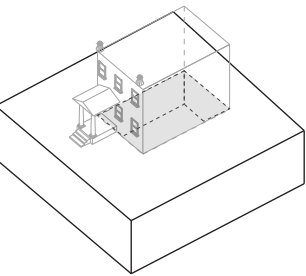
assessment



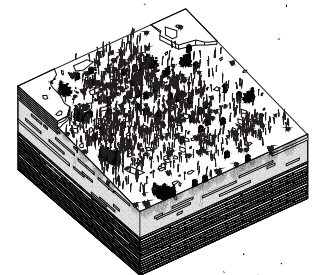
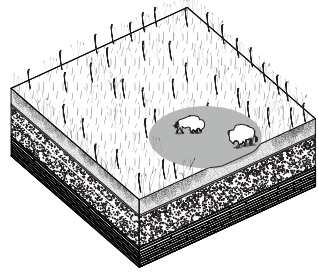
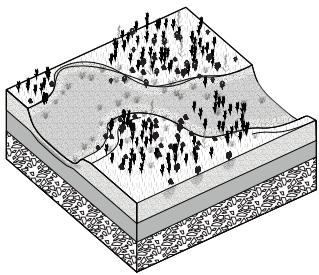
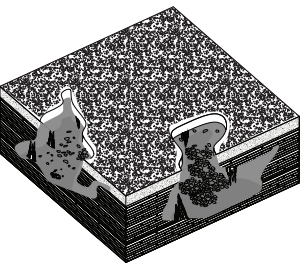
demolish



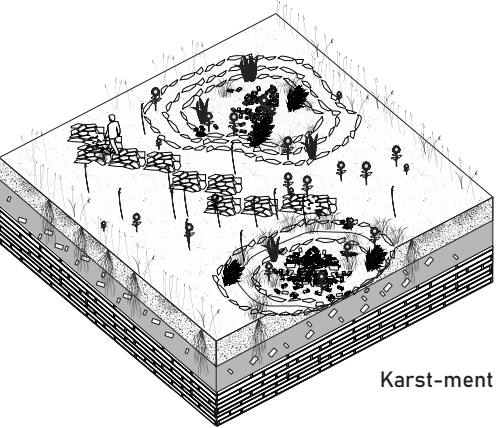
remove
impervious
material



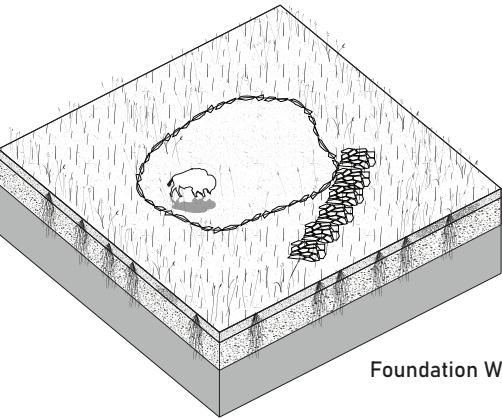
match
ecosystem



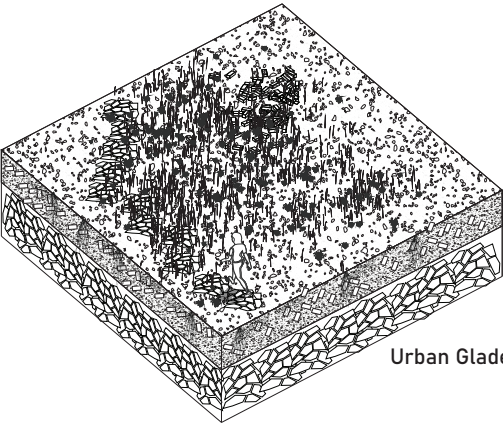
hybrid result



Karst-ment Wetland



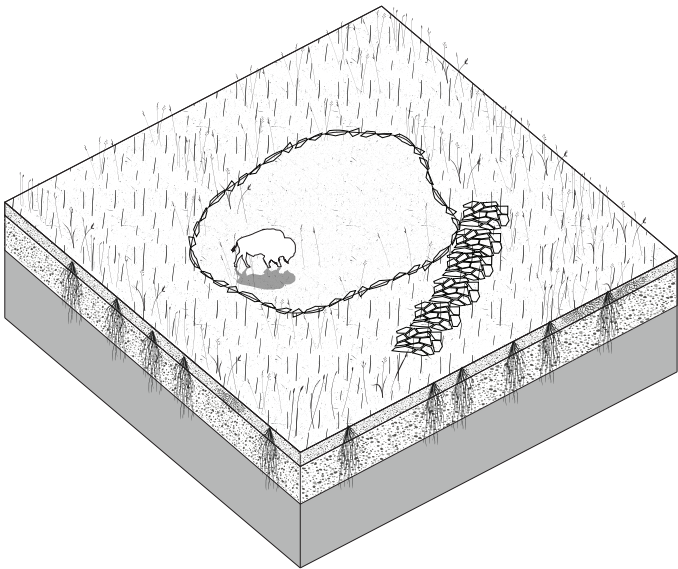
Foundation Wallow



Urban Glade



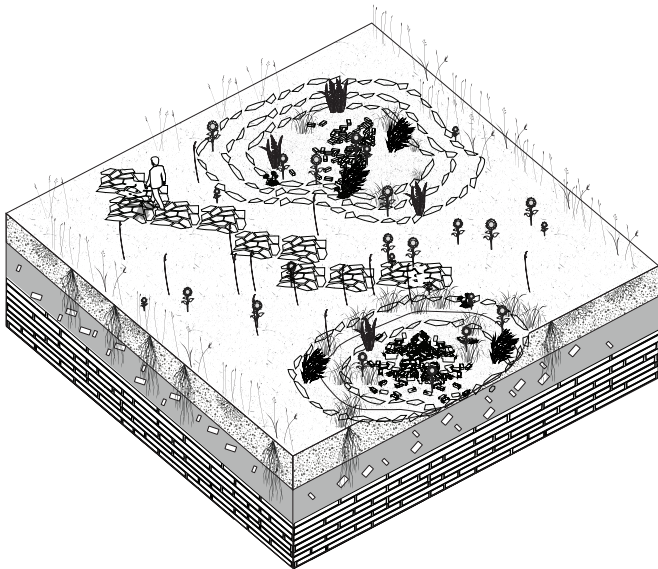
PROPOSED INTERVENTION



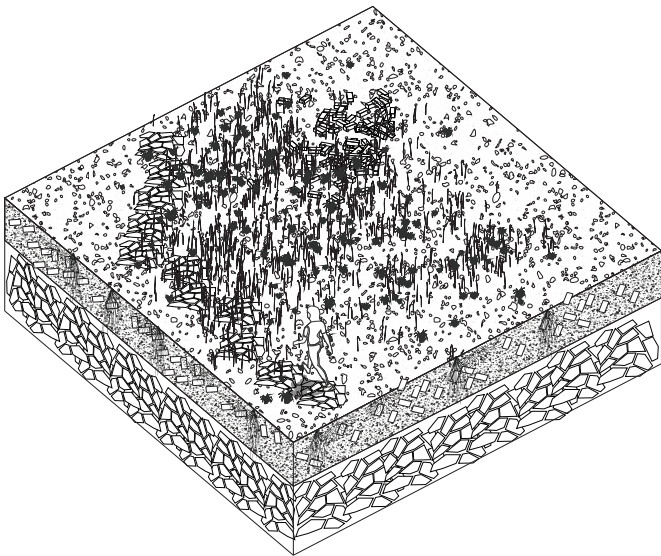
To use half of the vacant lots for new park spaces suiting the existitng urban condition rather than posing a forced new condition upon the place.

This proposal will allow stakeholders to expand possible solutions that help mitigate flooding impacts through desealing the soils and treat urban heat island effects.

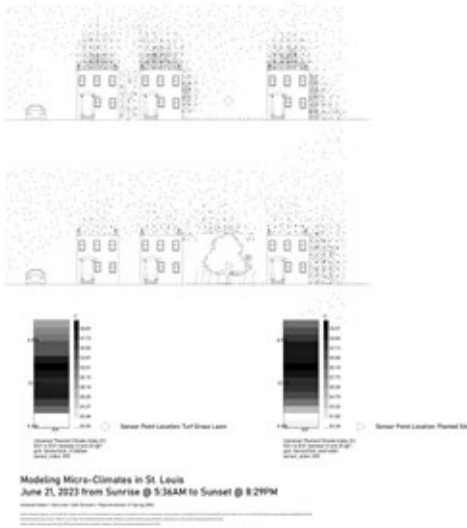
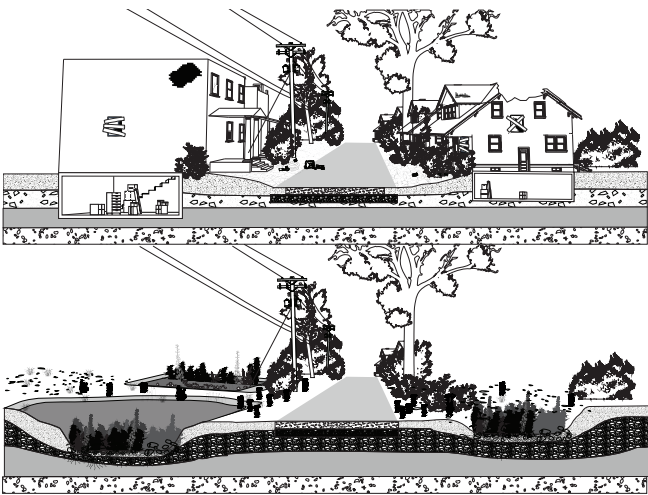
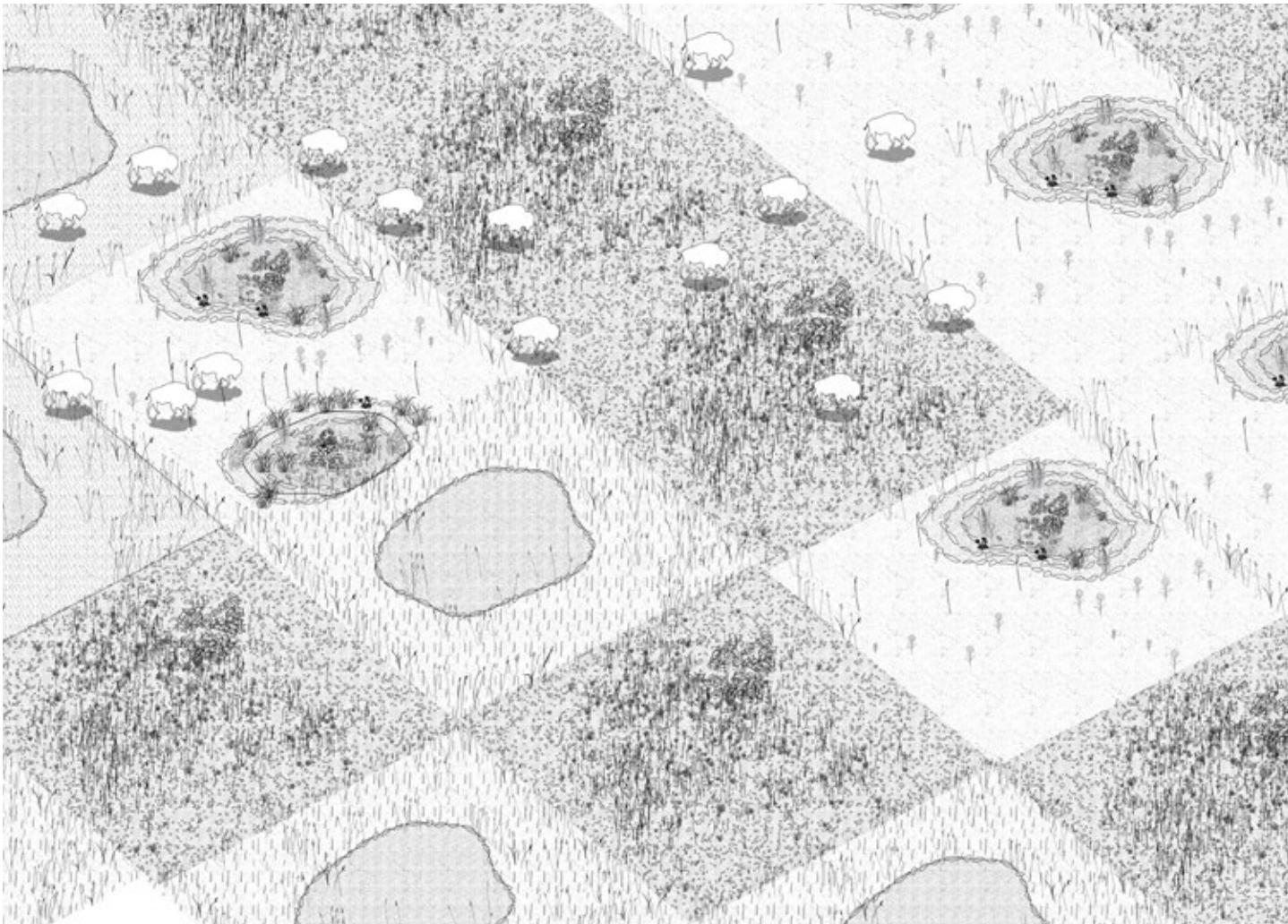
wallow



wetland

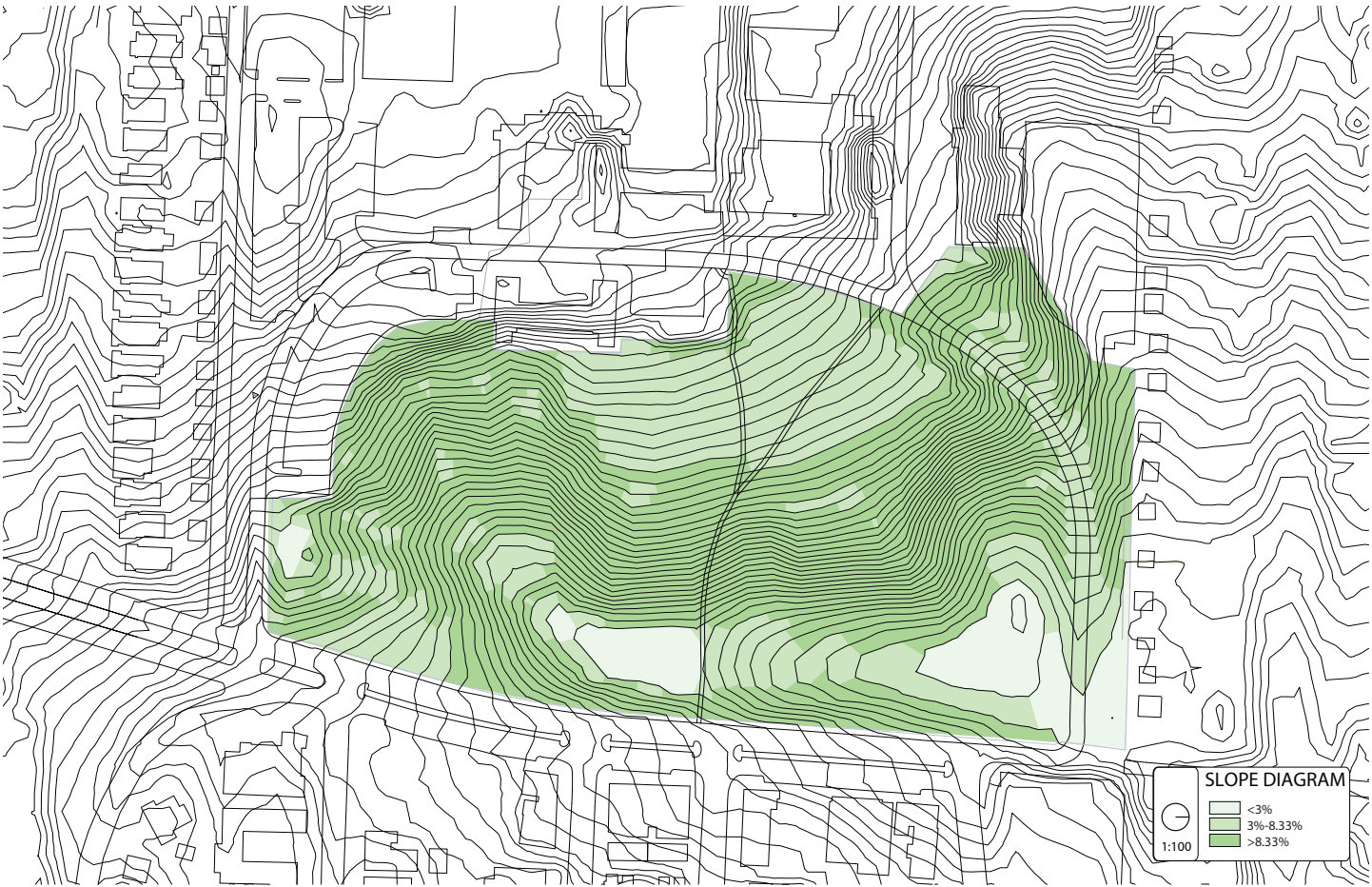
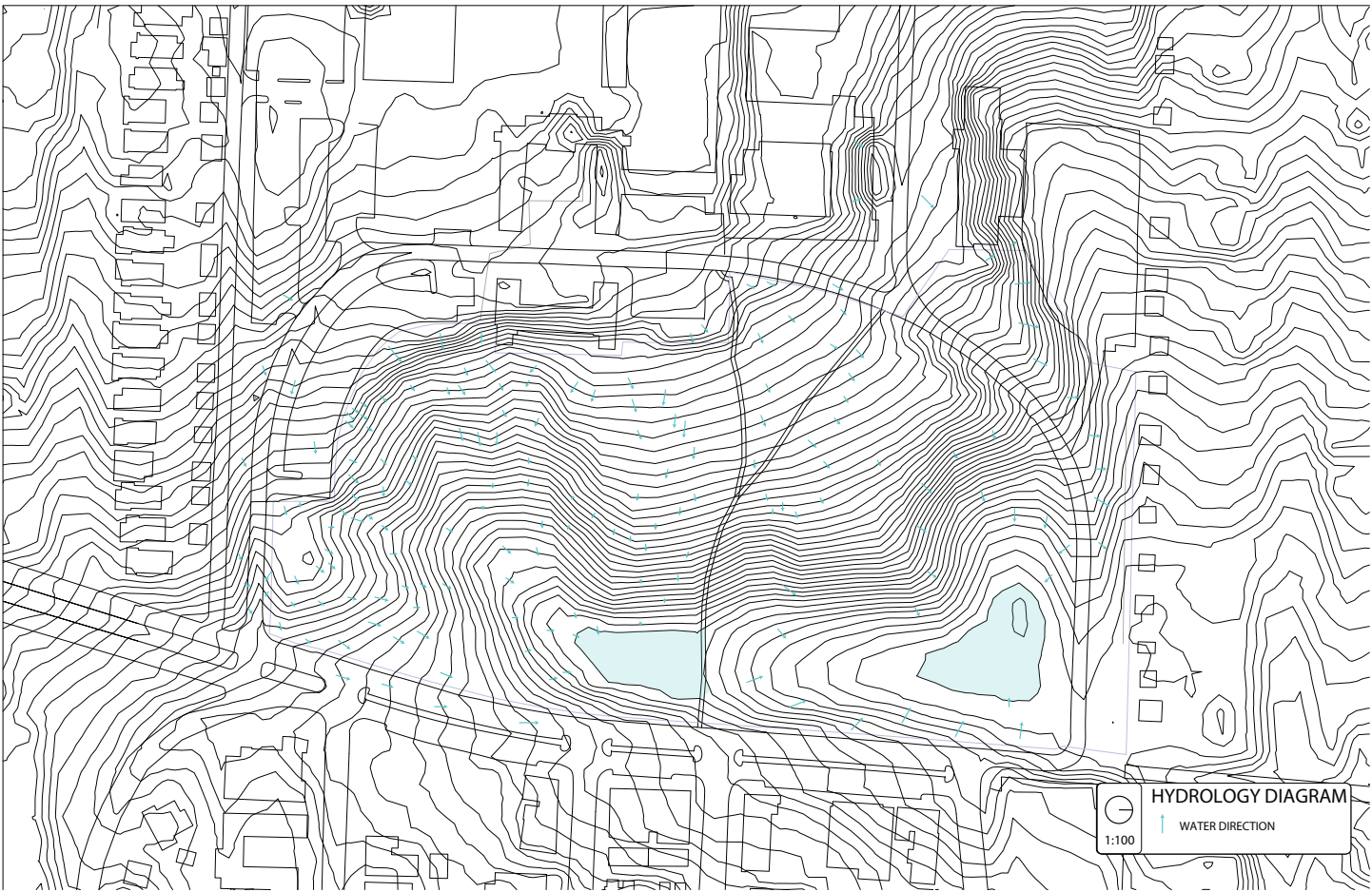
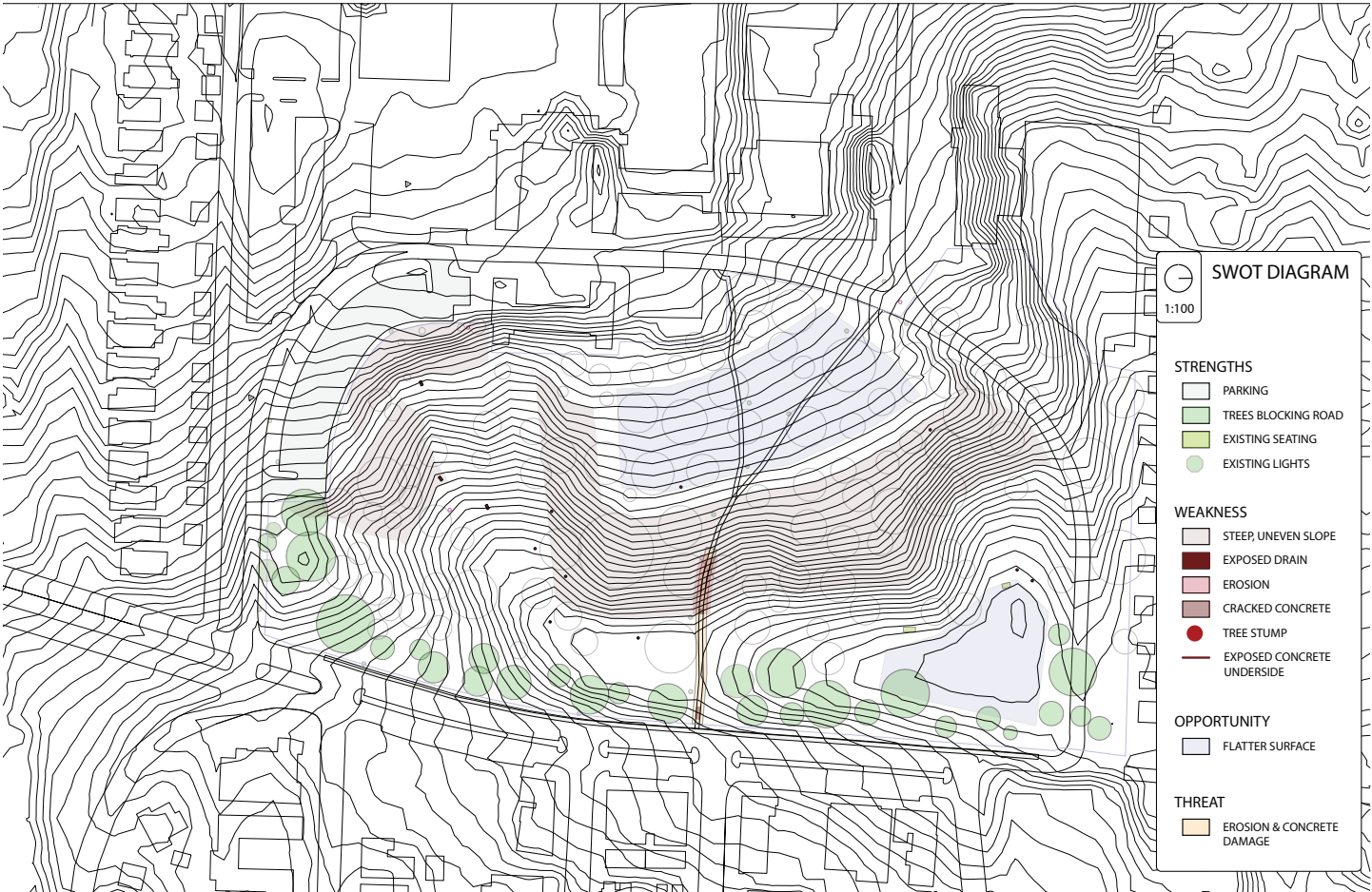


glade



Modeling Urban Heat Island Effects With Honeybee Tools in Rhino
-Animation GIF of a City Block in Wells-Goodfellow Neighborhood

TECHNICAL SKILLS

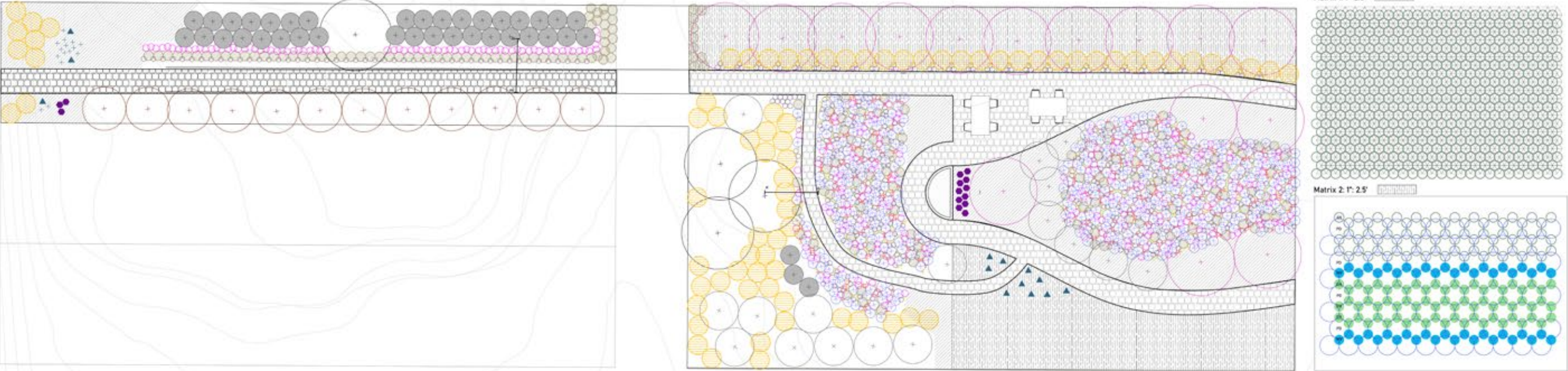
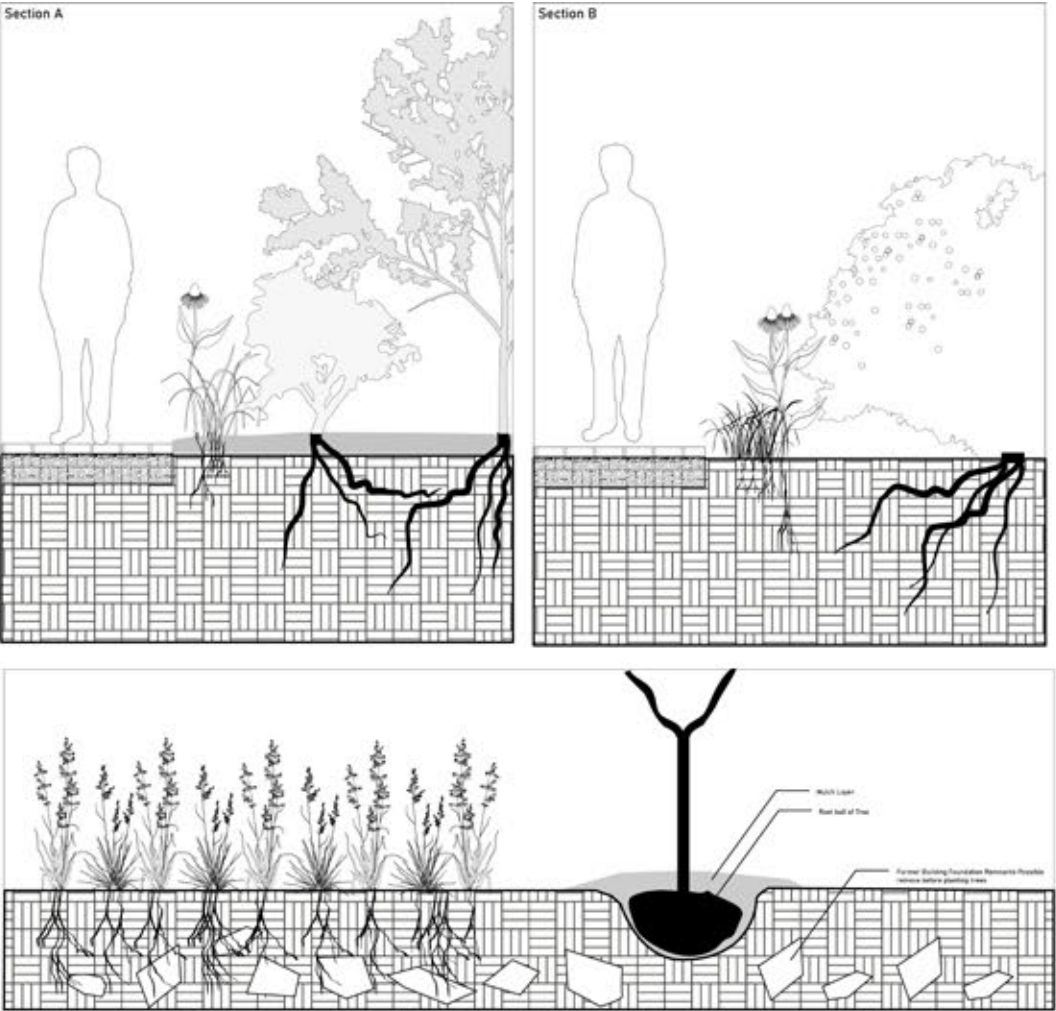


Bird Sanctuary: Art Place Initiative Housing Project Concept Planting Plan

Amanda Kesler
Alisa Blatter - 542B Planting Design
SP '24

The Art Place Initiative Community Project presents an opportunity for rethinking available open spaces as the organizations involved renovate multiple parcels in the area into art residences. In my concept, I chose a pallet of plants that specifically catered towards birds. On site, the central area is dominated by a core "meadow" space layered with flowering plants to attract insects for birds to eat, but also nesting structure. The central meadow is enclosed by a short canopy of small trees and a layer of shrubs for more nesting opportunities and perching. For the visitors there is a central gathering space with seating for bird watching or creating art.

Symbol	Code	Scientific Name	Common Name	Count	Height (ft)	Spacing O.C. (ft)	Bloom Mo. Start	Bloom Mo. End	Shade	Matrix	Comments
●	CO	Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	40	5	4	6	9			Shrub
○	MS-ST	Malus "Sutyazm" SUGAR TYME	Flowering Crab Apple	4	14	15	4	5			White Flowering Tree, produces crabapples in fall, winter interest
○	VP	Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw	10	12	8	4	6			White flowering tree, red purple leaves in fall
○	RG	Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac	9	9	9	5	7			Long winter interest red leaves in fall
○	CC	Cercis canadensis	Redbud	15	15	20	3	5			pink blossoms and seed pods
●	MV	Mertensia virginica	Virginia Bluebells	15	1	0.5	4	5		Y	In shade matrix, sparingly
■	AN	Antennaria neglecta	Prairie Everlasting	Ground Cover	0.5	0.5	3	5		Y	In shade matrix
●	RA	Ribes aureum	Golden Currant	60	4	4	4	5			Shrub, Golden color blooms
●	SH	Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	170	2	2	6	10			Grass
●	RH	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-Eyed Susan	350	2	1	6	10			Yellow Flower
+	AT	Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed	400	2	1	6	8			Orange Flower
○	SS	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	430	3	2	1	12			Grass
○	TO	Tradescantia ohiensis	Ohio Spiderwort	375	3	1	5	7			Blue Flower
○	EP	Echinacea Purpurea	Purple Coneflower	200	4	1.5	7	9			Purple Flower
○	PD	Phlox divaricata	Wild Blue Phlox	30	1	1	4	6		Y	Blue Flower, scattered in shade matrix
●	EH	Elymus hystrix	Bottlebrush Grass	15	3	1	1	12		Y	Grass, bristle flowers, in shade matrix
+	AI	Amsonia illustris	Ozark Bluestar	15	3	2	4	5			Blue Flower
▲	SL	Symphyotrichum laeve	SmoothBlue Aster	15	4	2	8	10			Blue Flower
●	MF	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	15	4	2	7	9			Purple Flower





Location Map



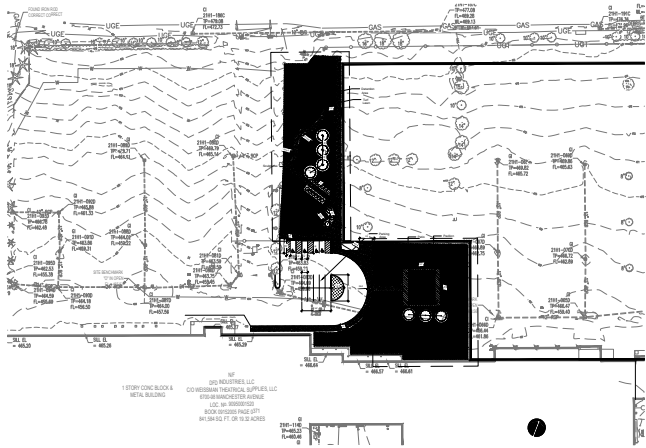
Region Map

**LANDSCAPE
TECHNOLOGY**
A48 LAND 565
FALL 24

LANDSCAPE
TECHNOLOGY
A48 LAND 565
FALL 24

Prepared by:
Amanda Kesler

**NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

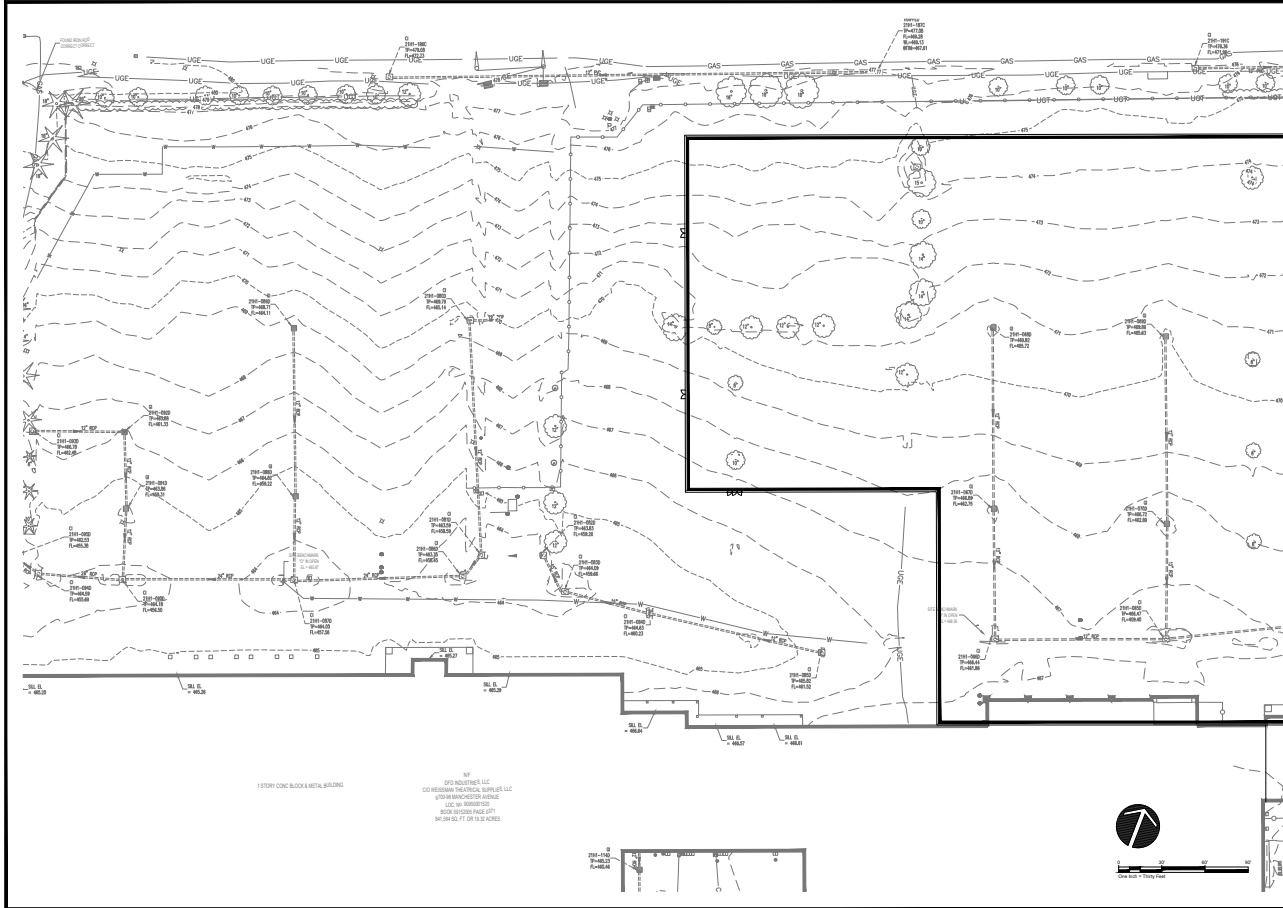


Dancewear Solutions Plaza

**TERM PROJECT -
ST. LOUIS CORPORATE PLAZA**
WashU
SANTO SCHOL OF DESIGN AND VISUAL ARTS

Drawing Title:
COVER SHEET

Project Number: 1724
Drawing Number: L0.0



LANDSCAPE
TECHNOLOGY
A48 LAND 565
FALL 24

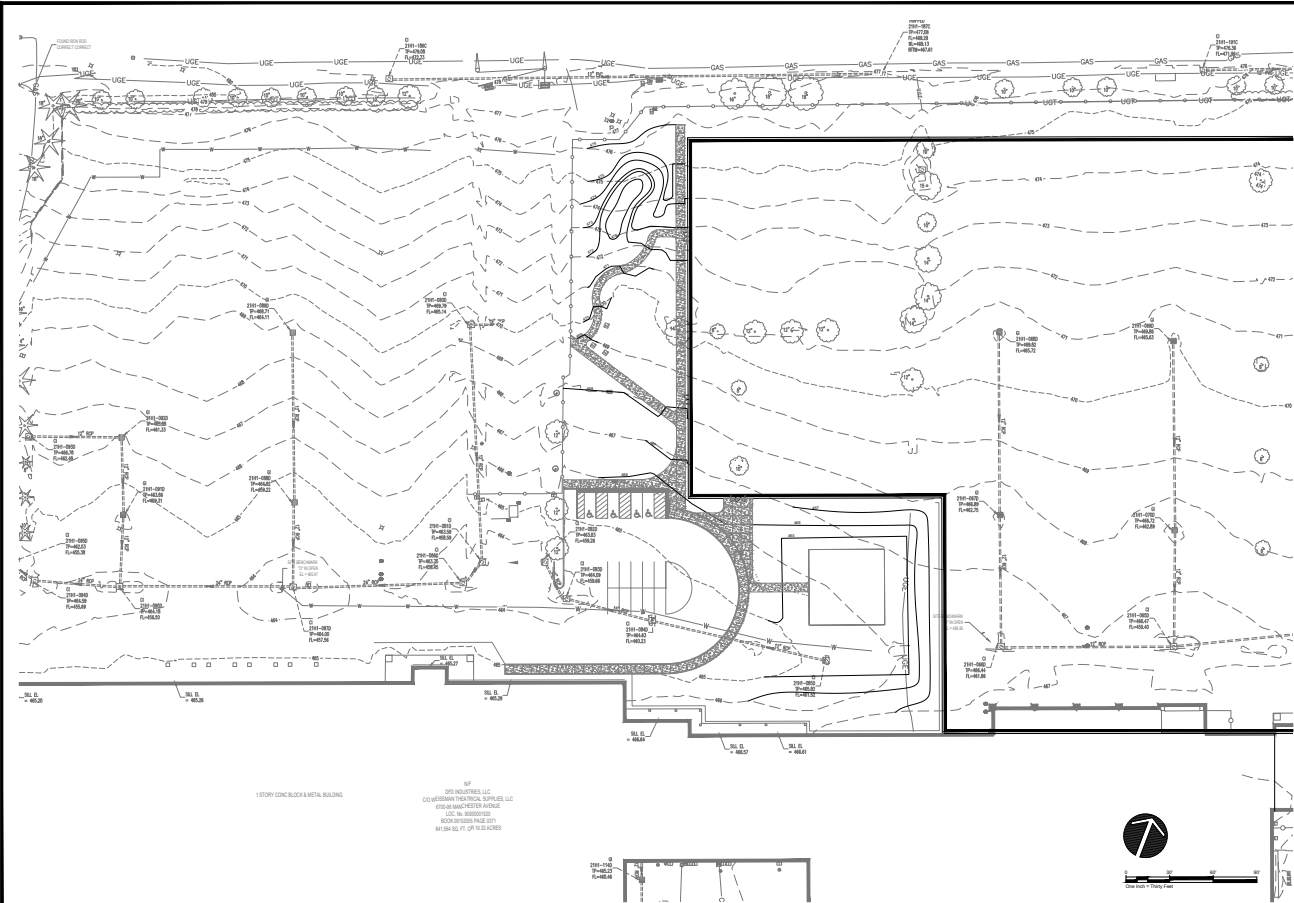
Prepared by:
Amanda Kesler

**NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

**TERM PROJECT -
ST. LOUIS CORPORATE PLAZA**
WashU
SANTO SCHOL OF DESIGN AND VISUAL ARTS

Drawing Title:
SURVEY

Project Number: 1724
Drawing Number: L0.0



LANDSCAPE
TECHNOLOGY
A48 LAND 565
FALL 24

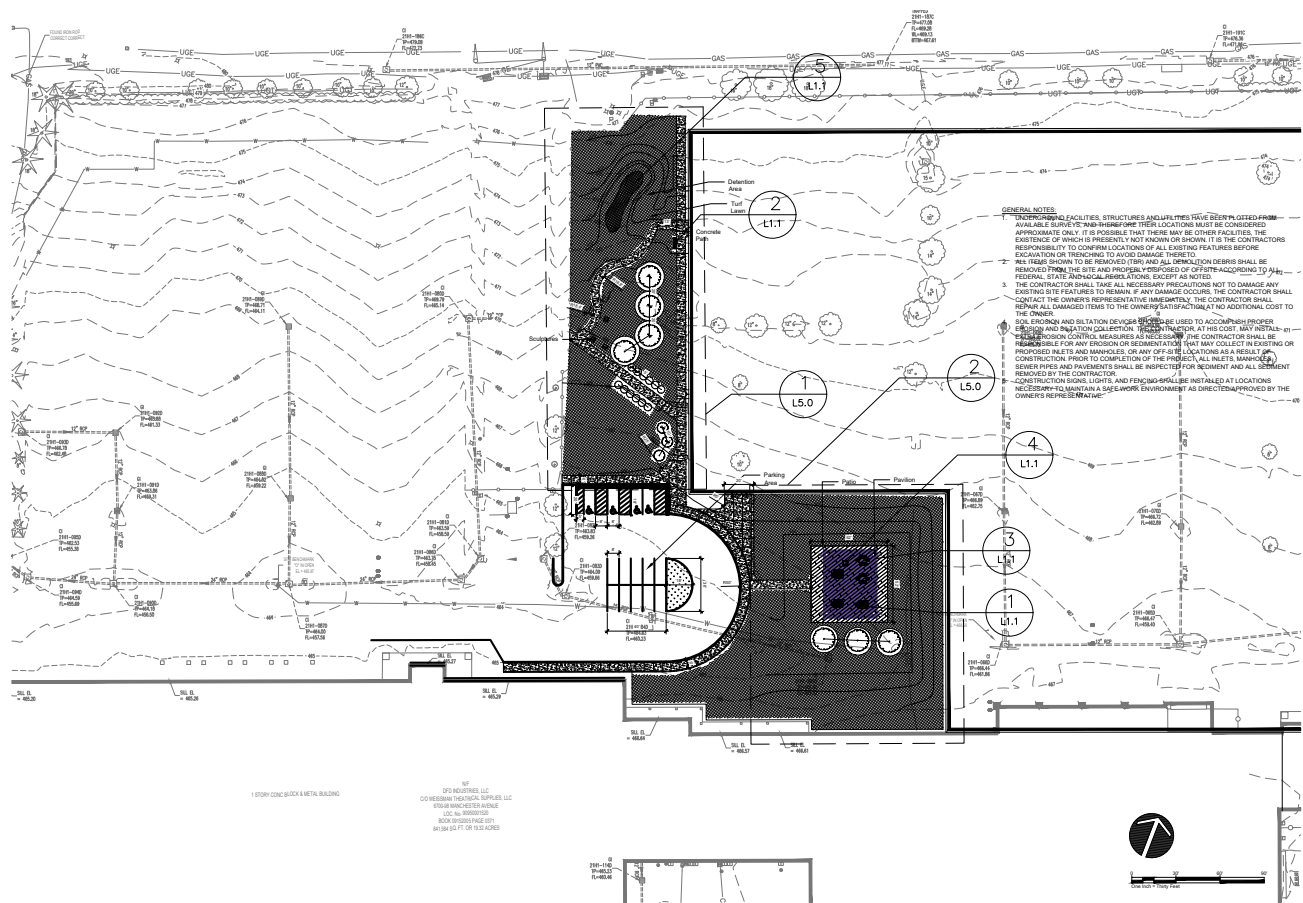
Prepared by:
Amanda Kesler

**NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

**TERM PROJECT -
ST. LOUIS CORPORATE PLAZA**
WashU
SANTO SCHOL OF DESIGN AND VISUAL ARTS

Drawing Title:
GRADING PLAN

Project Number: 1724
Drawing Number: L2.0



LANDSCAPE
TECHNOLOGY
A48 LAND 565
FALL 24

Prepared by:
Amanda Kesler

**NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

**TERM PROJECT -
ST. LOUIS CORPORATE PLAZA**
WashU
SANTO SCHOL OF DESIGN AND VISUAL ARTS

Drawing Title:
LAYOUT PLAN

Project Number: 1724
Drawing Number: L1.0

PROFESSIONAL WORK

COMMUNITY PARK

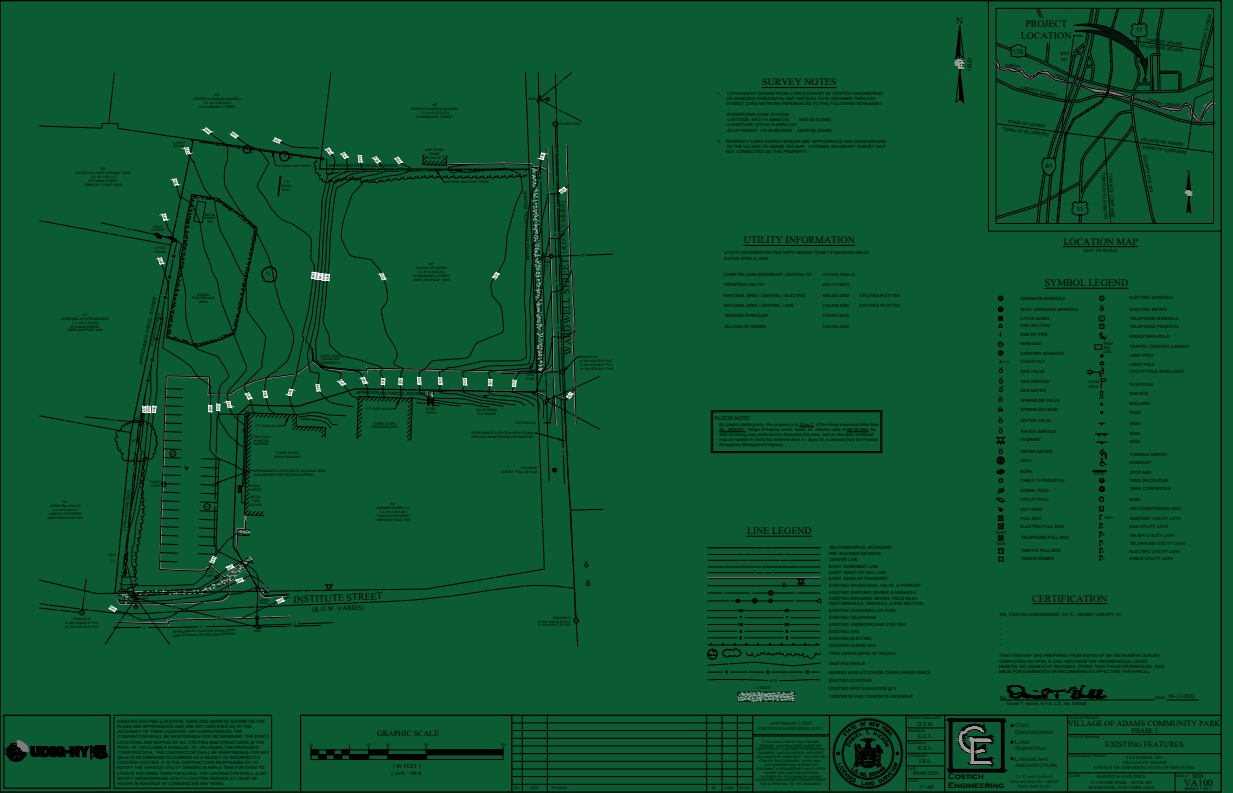
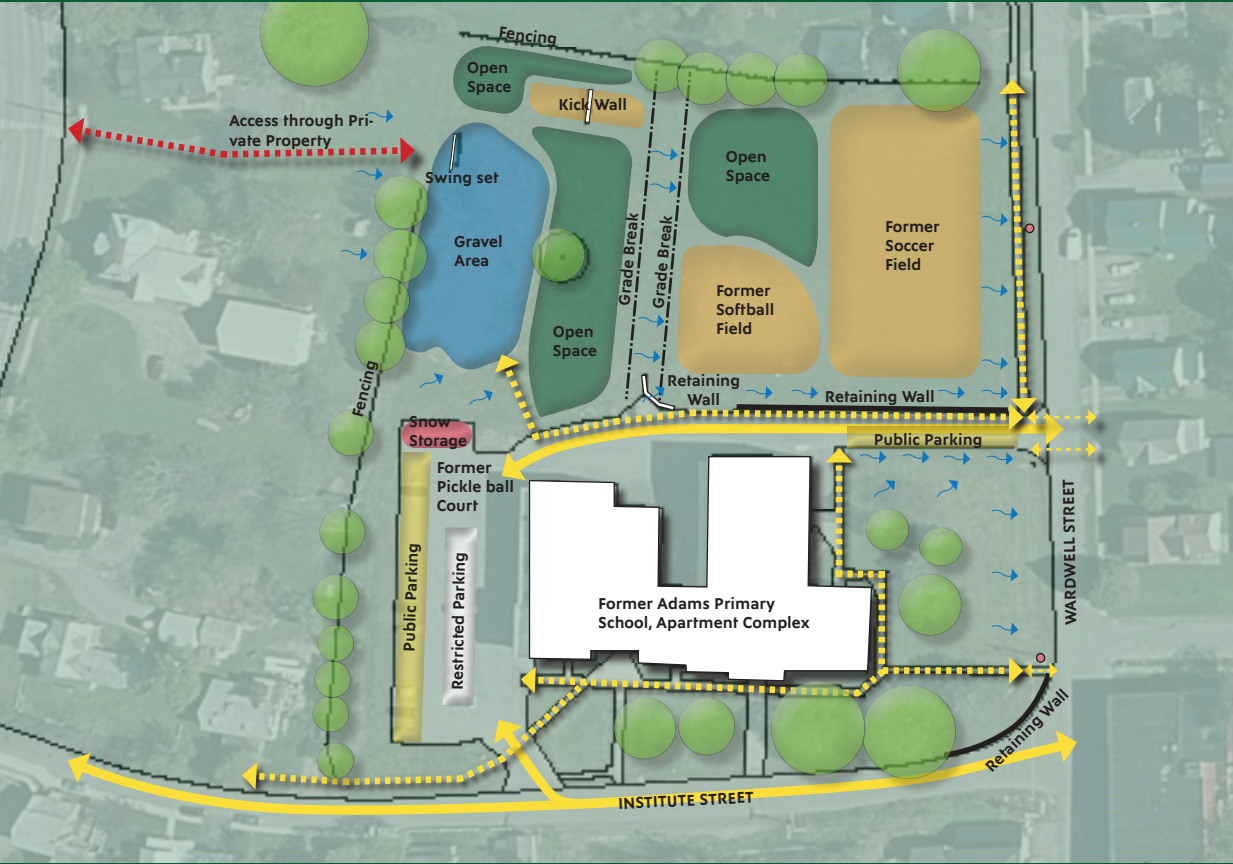
- Play Equipment**
- The primary proposed playground area is located in the upper area of the site, or to the west, with manufactured Miracle play equipment.
 - The secondary proposed playground areas are located above and at the grade break on site, consisting of steel playgrounds nature play elements. These include a terrain slide, swings, a swingset and stumps.
- Pathways**
- Park pathways will be 5' wide connecting to the parking lot, the pathway adjacent to the apartment complex, and Wardwell Street.
- Open Space**
- The lower area of the site, or to the east, will consist primarily of open lawn space with shade trees to provide edge definition. This area is unprogrammed, and can be used for a variety of passive recreation activities, including seating for the main pavilion, lawn games, picnicking, and viewing.
- Event Pavilion**
- One main pavilion will be included centrally to the site with a restroom facility. This will be used for gatherings and local events.
- Open Space**
- Picnic tables, benches, and seat walls provide seating throughout the site for surveillance of the play areas, for small and large gatherings, and for quiet viewing.
- Landscaping**
- Large canopy trees will provide edge definition and shade throughout the site.
 - Medium and small canopy trees will provide screening to adjacent properties surrounding the Park.
 - Shrubs, perennials, and grasses will be included throughout the site with various functions, including defining pathway curves, serving as green infrastructure for stormwater, enhancing habitat for pollinator species, and enhancing the visual aesthetic of the Park.
- Little Library**
- A little library will be designed and constructed by others adjacent to stump seats for Story Hours, Community reads and individual reading.
- Gateway**
- A gateway will be constructed at the northeastern corner of the site to welcome visitors to the Park.

FINAL CONCEPT

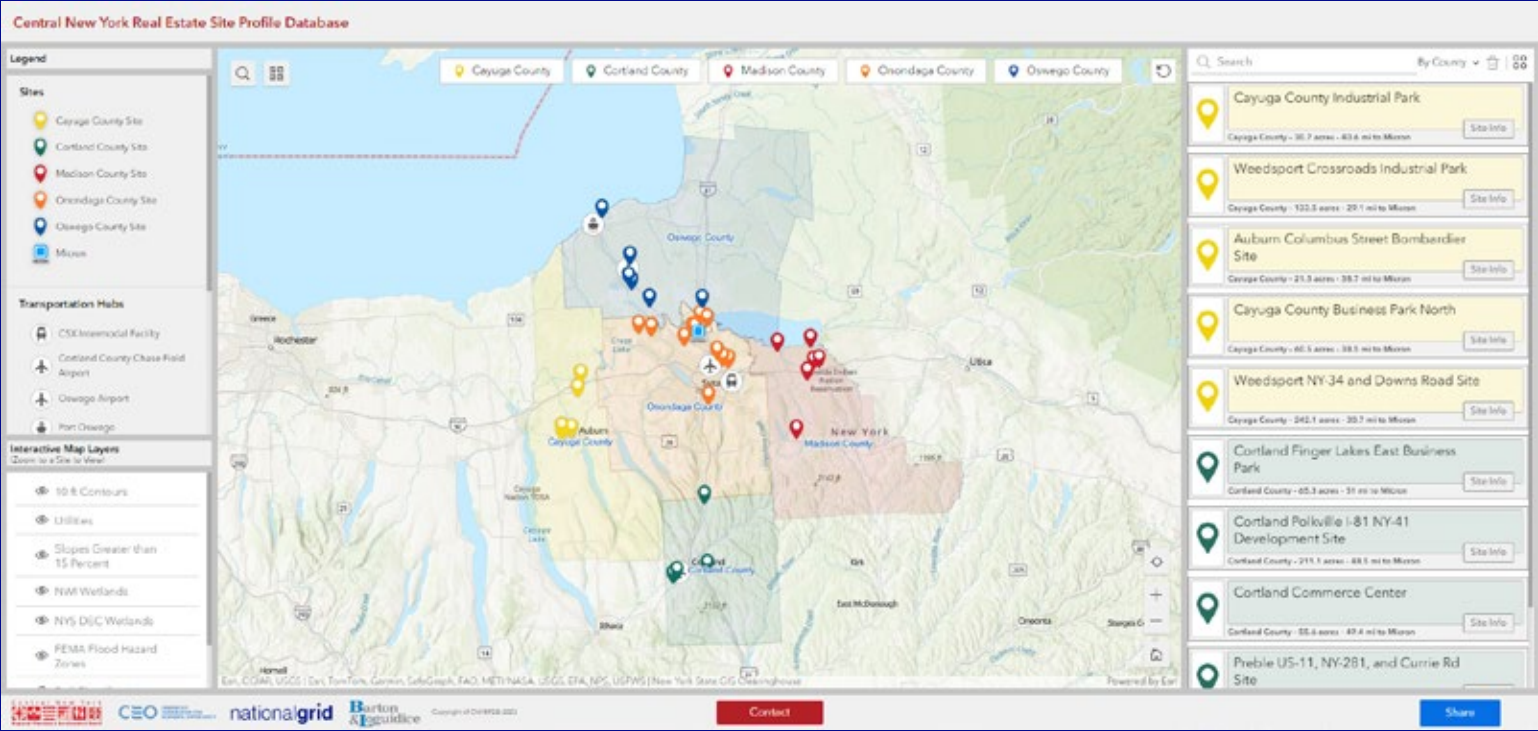


This Community Park was a project that I worked on with a multidisciplinary design team of planners, landscape architects, and engineers. I assisted the project team by writing the grant with the community in which we were awarded funding. Then I assisted with developing the concept plan, phasing the project, and budgeting. The project is currently in its second phase and the playground has been constructed.

To date I have written over 13 grants, assisted with a variety of community planning projects, website development playgrounds, and streetscape improvement projects.



DATABASE WEBSITE CREATION
Assistance in Map Package Creation and Website Development



Cayuga County Industrial Park

Cayuga County

Site Details

- Distance to Micron: 40.6 mi
- Address: Eagle Dr - Town of Aurelius
- Size: 30.7 Acres
- Owner: Cayuga County Industrial Development Agency
- Key Adjacent Land Use(s): Manufacturing, Agriculture, Institutional, Commercial, Rural
- Nearest Highway Interchanges: I-90 Exit 40 (12 mi north)
- Zoning District(s): Industrial (I) with Planned Unit Development/Planned Development Overlay (PUD/PDD)

Site Profile Downloads

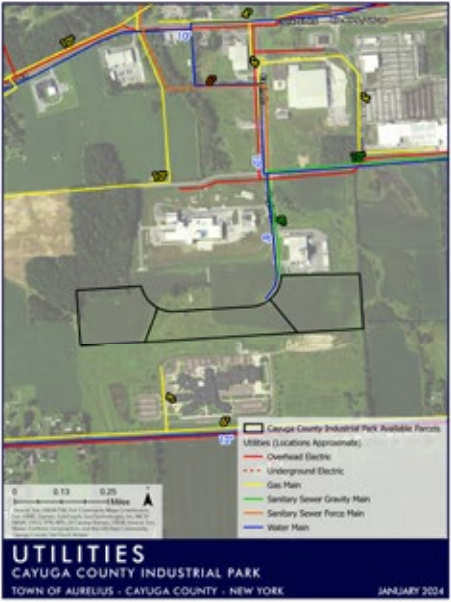
Summary Sheet Site Profile Site Map Package Full Package

Contacts For More Information

Michael Miller
Executive Director
Cayuga IDA
director@cayugacountyida.org
http://www.cayugacountyida.org

Honora Spillane
VP of Economic Development
CenterState CEO
hspillane@centerstateceo.com
http://www.centerstateceo.com

Full Gallery



CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT CAYUGA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK TOWN OF AURELIUS - CAYUGA COUNTY - NEW YORK

SITE INFORMATION

- Eagle Drive, Auburn, Aurelius, New York
- 30.7 Acres
- 3 available parcels able to be subdivided

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

- Industrial (I) with Planned Unit Development (PUD/PDD) Overlay

BUILDING AND SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Based on proposed land use per Town of Aurelius Zoning Code
- Welland permitting likely required
- Min road frontage: 100'
- Min lot size: 40,000 SF
- Max lot coverage: 60%
- Must adhere to Industrial District Building Requirements unless PUD/PDD Overlay is proposed
- Site can accommodate approximately 4 buildings, totaling +/-205,000 SF

2024 CENTRAL NEW YORK SITE PROFILE

